

MESSAGE

On behalf of the different leagues of local government units (LGUs) and federations of local government officials that constitute its membership across the country, the **UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP)** joins and supports this year's **15th Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) – Philippines National Conference** with an appropriate theme, *“Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through CBMS”* that aptly recognizes the need to establish an avenue for partnerships towards meeting the SDG Challenge.

Through the years, our pleasant collaboration with the DLSU Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies has been geared towards productivity, and for this year, it is not pure coincidence, but rather a fusion of like-minded advocacies and conscious design that brought us to the same plain of initiatives: ULAP too is pushing innovation as a fulcrum to advance our collective agenda for development. The local government is replete with narratives about good practices, strategies and innovations at the grassroots level addressing varied situational contexts and approximating the global standards for best efforts.

Resonating the objectives behind the CBMS theme, **ULAP’s “Book of Innovators: Best Governance Models at the Grassroots in pursuit of the Local SDGs”**, now in full swing of production, mirrors success stories about local leaderships and constituencies bound together by common adversities, innovative ingenuity and willful interventions that shaped a pragmatic solution to the mundane problems stubbornly gnawing at the foundations of local communities. The basics of innovation, ingenuity and resourcefulness can be uncovered and shared for dissemination and replication so that these humbling examples of wisdom and prowess will not be lost and thus, be made available in the information mainstream.

CBMS is an indispensable tool that enables local leaders and development partners to address basic needs for human security in ways that capitalize on intelligent data to aid the identification of many determinants of socioeconomic contexts and inform policy interventions and program designs with evidence and empirical analyses. As we draw inspiration from the local narratives, let CBMS ensure replication and monitoring with higher chances of success.

MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT !!!



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